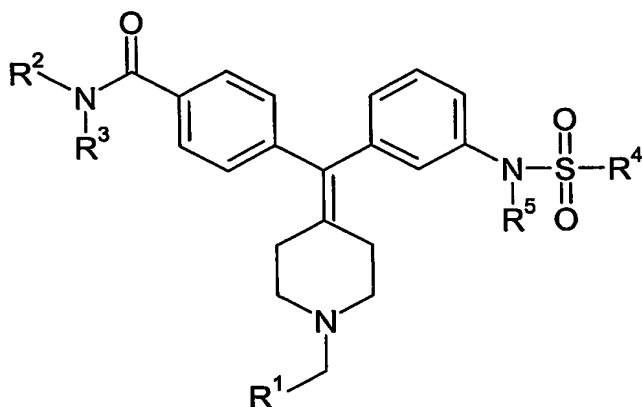


What is claimed is :

1. A compound of formula I, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:

**I**

wherein

- R^1 is selected from C_{6-10} aryl and C_{2-6} heteroaryl, wherein said C_{6-10} aryl and C_{2-6} heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl, wherein R^1 is optionally

substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogenated C₁₋₆alkyl, -NO₂, -CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R², R³, and R⁴ are, independently, C₁₋₃alkyl or halogenated C₁₋₃alkyl;

5 R⁵ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogenated C₁₋₆alkyl, -NO₂, -CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo.

3. A compound according to claim 1,

10 wherein R¹ is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; pyrrolyl; and thiazolyl, wherein R¹ is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogenated C₁₋₆alkyl, -NO₂, -CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R², R³, and R⁴ are, independently, C₁₋₃alkyl or halogenated C₁₋₃alkyl; and

15 R⁵ is hydrogen.

4. A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R¹ is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl, and thiazolyl;

20 R² and R³ are ethyl;

R⁴ is C₁₋₃alkyl; and

R⁵ is hydrogen.

5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

25

N,N-diethyl-4- { {3-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl} [1-(thien-2-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl} benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[[1-(2-furanylmethyl)-4-piperidinyldiene][3-

30 [(methylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[[1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene][3-
[(methylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[[3-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl][1-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-4-
5 piperidinylidene]methyl]-benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[[3-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl][1-(3-thiazolyl-methyl)-4-
piperidinylidene]methyl]-benzamide;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1-5 for use as a medicament.

7. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture
of a medicament for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal
15 disorders.

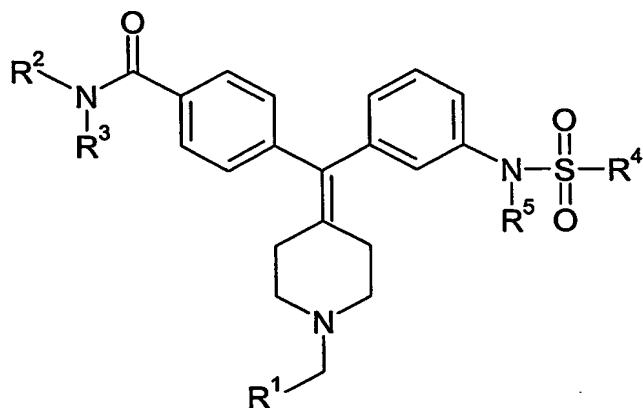
8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one
of claims 1-5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20 9. A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the
step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective
amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5.

10. A method for the therapy of functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-
25 blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such
therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of
claims 1-5.

11. A process for preparing a compound of formula I, comprising:

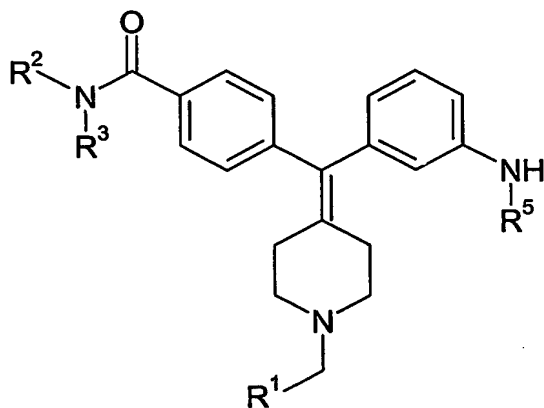
49



I

reacting a compound of formula II with $X-S(=O)_2-R^4$ or $R^4S(=O)_2-O-S(=O)_2R^4$.

5



II

wherein

X is selected from Cl, Br and I;

10 R^1 is selected from C_{6-10} aryl and C_{2-6} heteroaryl, wherein said C_{6-10} aryl and C_{2-6} heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

15 R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -

$\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OR}$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NR}_2$, $-\text{NRC}(=\text{O})\text{R}$, and $-\text{NRC}(=\text{O})-\text{OR}$, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.